



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al. Art Unit : 2172
Serial No. : 09/852,266 Examiner : Fred Ehichioya
Filed : May 10, 2001 Confirmation No.: 5445
Title : AUTHENTICATION APPARATUS AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF AUGUST 2, 2004

In reply to the final Office Action of August 2, 2004, applicant submits the following remarks.

Claims 1-63 are pending in the application with claims 1, 7, 11, 17, 55 and 56 being independent.

Claims 1-20, 23, 25-36, 43-45, and 49-54 have been rejected as being anticipated under section 102(a) by UK Patent Application GB 2 348 309 A to Uchida (“Uchida UK”). With respect to claims 1, 7, 11 and 17, and their dependent claims, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Uchida UK does not describe or suggest sending means for sending a notice of coincidence as data to a mating party or a manager when a collation result proves coincident, as recited in claims 1, 7, 11, 17.

The rejection points to page 11, lines 8-15 and page 29, lines 15-23 as describing the recited sending means. However, the first of these passages merely identifies a communication message sending means that sends a communication message to an authentication executing device, and in no way describes or suggests sending a notice of coincidence as data to a mating party or manager, or otherwise.

Likewise, the second of these passages describes the transmission of personal information from a portable terminal to an authentication host for use in confirming the personal identity of a user, and similarly fails to send a “notice of coincidence.” In particular, this passage merely describes sending encrypted personal identification information (e.g., a customer number and a personal identification number) to an authentication host. Thus, instead of sending a message indicating that a collation result has proved to be successful, Uchida UK sends